



# Quarks in a finite volume and deconfinement as percolation of center-electric fluxes in QCD

Prague, 17 April 2023

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PRD 106 (2022) 054513 [arXiv:2206.11697]



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung



CRC-TR 211  
Strong-interaction matter  
under extreme conditions



Helmholtz  
Forschungsakademie  
Hessen für FAIR

- Quark in a finite volume — why bother?
- Center-vortex and electric-flux ensembles in pure gauge theory
- Stacks of closed center vortex sheets for full QCD
- Flux tube model for heavy-dense QCD
- Percolation of electric fluxes
- Summary and Outlook

- Why bother?
- consider canonical partition functions:

$$Z_c(T, V, N_q) = 0, \text{ for } N_q \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}$$

→ Polyakov loop paradox

Kratochvila & de Forcrand, PRD 73 (2006) 114512

- follows from Roberge-Weiss symmetry

Roberge & Weiss, NPB 275 (1986) 734

- imaginary chemical potential:  $\mu/T = i\theta$

fugacity expansion

→ Fourier series

period  $2\pi/3$  →

$$Z^I(\theta) \equiv Z(T, V, i\theta T) = \sum_{N_q} e^{iN_q\theta} Z_c(T, V, N_q)$$

grand canonical at imaginary  $\mu$

canonical ensembles

→ only every 3<sup>rd</sup> Fourier coefficient  $\neq 0$

...we've just changed the temporal b.c.'s without changing the spatial ones!

- change spatial b.c.'s to account for Gauss' law

back up — pure  $SU(N)$  gauge theory:

$(d+1)$ -dim spacetime

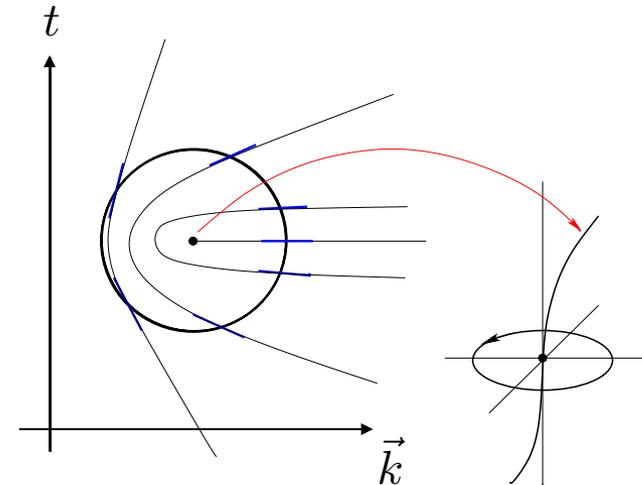
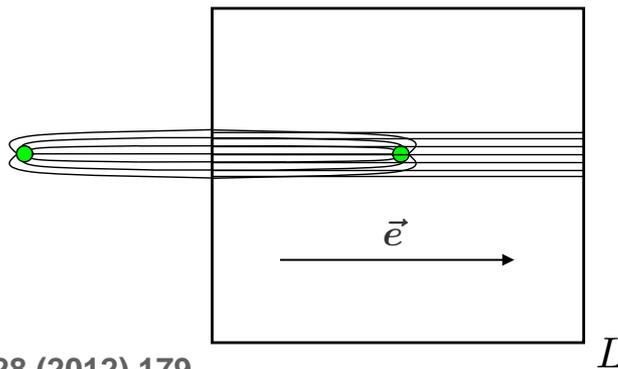
$$Z_e(\vec{e}) = \frac{1}{N^d} \sum_{\vec{k} \in \mathbb{Z}_N^d} e^{2\pi i \vec{e} \cdot \vec{k} / N} Z_k(\vec{k})$$

't Hooft's electric flux ensembles  
(mirror charges)

't Hooft's twisted b.c.'s  
(no of center vortices mod  $N$ )

$$\frac{Z_e(\vec{e})}{Z_e(0)} = \frac{1}{N} \left\langle \text{tr} \left( P_\Omega(\vec{x}) P_\Omega^\dagger(\vec{x} + \vec{e}L) \right) \right\rangle_{\text{no-flux}}$$

dual  $\longleftrightarrow$

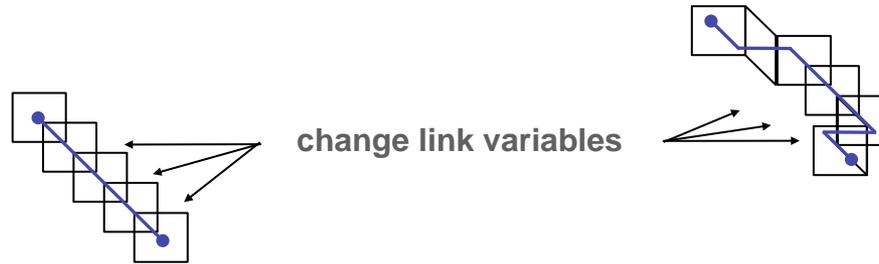
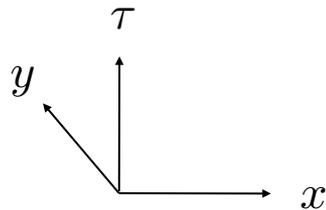
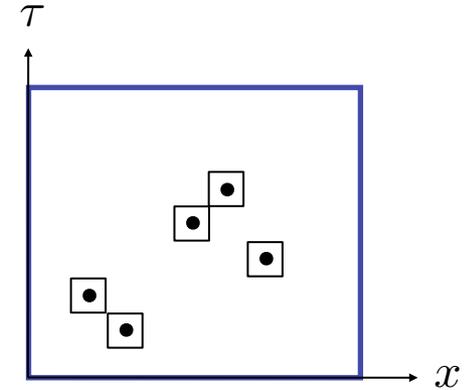


LvS, NPB (PS) 228 (2012) 179

- fix total # mod.  $N$  of center vortices through planes

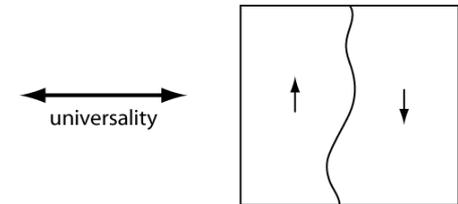
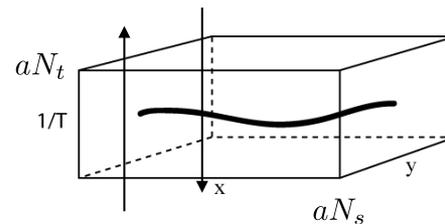
- implement on lattice

multiply plaquette couplings by non-trivial center element



- for Polyakov loops

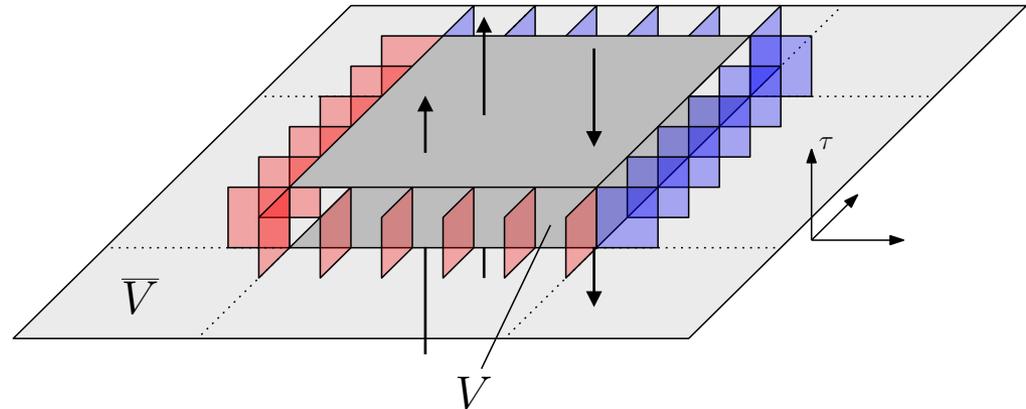
act as interfaces in spin model dual to electric fluxes



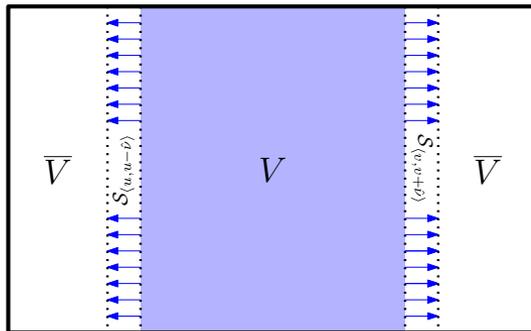
- pure gauge theory  
remove with variable transform

- heavy-dense limit of QCD  
static fermion determinant

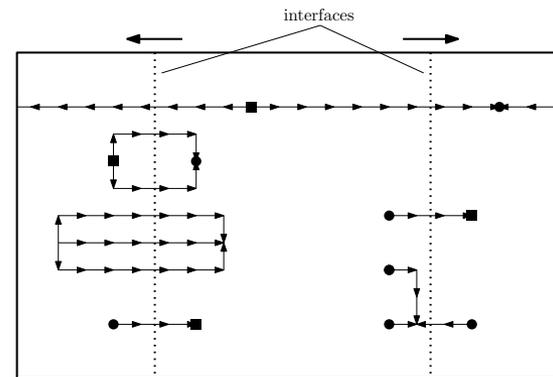
- $Z_3$ -Fourier transform over closed center vortex sheets



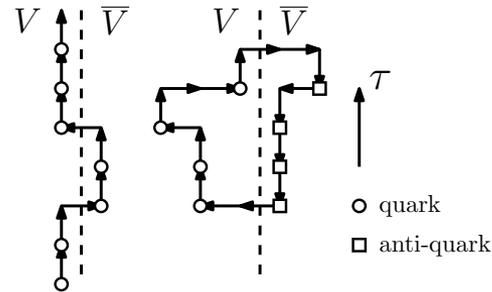
fix electric flux through  $S = \partial V$



or net quark number mod. 3 inside



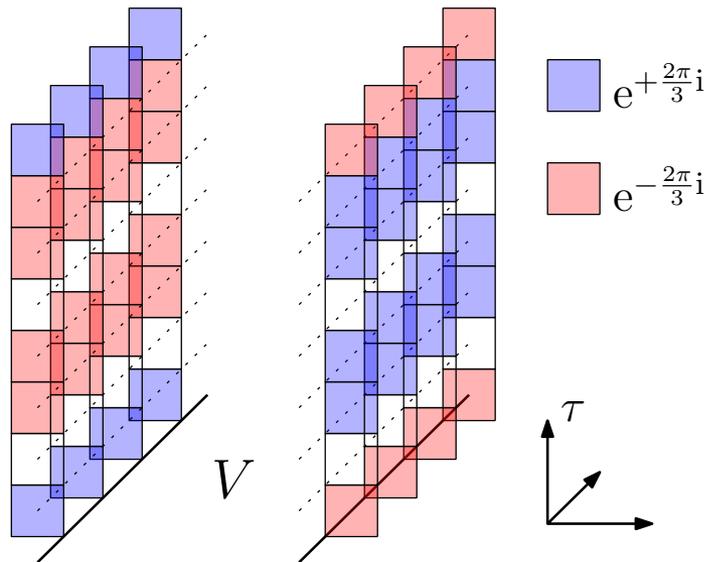
- with arbitrary spatial hops  
(anti-)quarks can hop in and out of  $V$



- introduce between *all* time slices  
 $N_\tau$  closed center-vortex sheets

## $Z_3$ -Fourier transforms

- over  $N_\tau$  closed center-vortex sheets
- selective static membrane at  $S = \partial V$   
(only hadrons can pass)



• final result, to fix charge in  $V$

$$Z(q_V \bmod 3 = e) = \frac{1}{3^{N_\tau}} \sum_{\{z_\tau \in \mathbb{Z}_3\}} \left[ \prod_{\tau=1}^{N_\tau} z_\tau^{-e} \right] Z(\{z_\tau\})$$

total charge (net quark number) modulo 3 in sub-volume  $V$ , write  $q_V =_3 e$

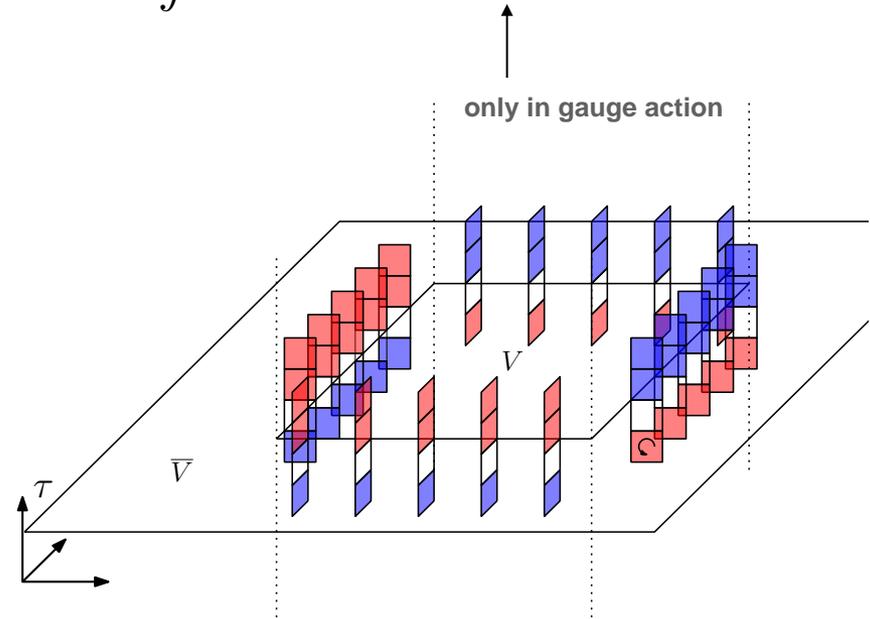
with

$$Z(\{z_\tau\}) = \int \mathcal{D}[\dots] e^{-S_G(\{z_\tau\}, U) - S_F(U, \bar{\psi}, \psi)}$$

• twisted plaquette action

$$S_G(\{z_\tau\}, U) = -\frac{2}{g^2} \sum_p \text{ReTr}(z(p)U_p)$$

$$z(p_{(i,\tau),\mu\nu}) = \begin{cases} z_\tau, & \nu = 4, \mu = k, \langle i, i + \hat{k} \rangle \in S^* \\ z_\tau^{-1}, & \nu = 4, \mu = k, \langle i + \hat{k}, i \rangle \in S^* \\ 1, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



• effective Polyakov-loop theory

(1 flavor Wilson)

$$Z_{\text{eff}} = \int \left( \prod_i dL_i J(L_i) Q(L_i) \right) \prod_{\langle i,j \rangle} (1 + 2\lambda \text{Re} L_i L_j^*)$$

Fromm, Langelage, Lottini, Philipsen, JHEP 01 (2012) 042  
Langelage, Neuman, Philipsen, JHEP 09 (2014) 131

leading order hopping expansion  
static fermion determinat → site factors

$$Q(L) = (1 + hL + h^2 L^* + h^3)^2 (1 + \bar{h}L^* + \bar{h}^2 L + \bar{h}^3)^2$$

where

$$h(\mu) = e^{(\mu-m)/T}$$

$$\bar{h}(\mu) = h(-\mu)$$

Pietri, Feo, Seiler, Stamatescu, PRD 76 (2007) 114501

- reduce to Potts model

maintain leading moments of reduced Haar measure

$$T_{m,n} = \int dL J(L) L^m L^{*n}$$

tabulated in

Uhlmann, Meinel, Wipf, J. Phys. A 40 (2007) 4367

replace group integrations

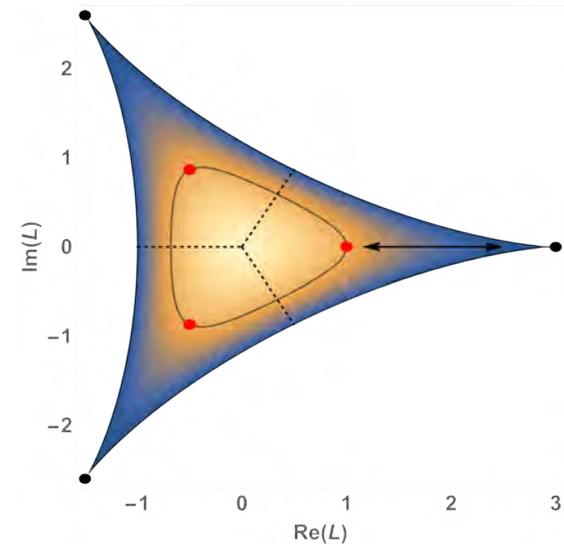
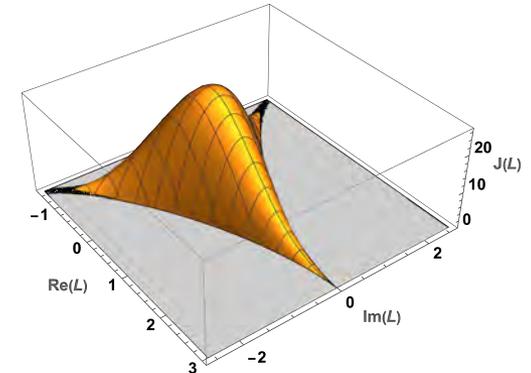
$$L \rightarrow z \in Z_3, \quad \int dL J(L) f(L) \rightarrow \frac{1}{3} \sum_{z \in Z_3} f(z)$$

reproduces  $T_{m,n}$  with  $m + n < 4$

- o.k. in heavy-dense limit

at strong coupling, or  $T \lesssim T_c$

Smith, Dumitru, Pisarski, LvS, PRD 88 (2013) 054020  
Endrodi, Gattlinger, Schadler, PRD 89 (2014) 054509



- for QCD at strong coupling

with static fermion determinant

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z_{\text{eff}} &= \frac{1}{3^{N_s}} \sum_{\{z_i \in \mathbb{Z}_3\}} \prod_{\langle i, j \rangle} (1 + 2\lambda \operatorname{Re} z_i z_j^*) \times \\
 &\quad \left( \prod_i (1 + h z_i + h^2 z_i^* + h^3)^2 (1 + \bar{h} z_i^* + \bar{h}^2 z_i + \bar{h}^3)^2 \right) \\
 &= \mathcal{N} \sum_{\{z_i \in \mathbb{Z}_3\}} \exp \left\{ \sum_{\langle i, j \rangle} 2\gamma \operatorname{Re} z_i z_j^* \right\} \times \\
 &\quad \left( \prod_i (1 + h z_i + h^2 z_i^* + h^3)^2 (1 + \bar{h} z_i^* + \bar{h}^2 z_i + \bar{h}^3)^2 \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

with  $\gamma = \frac{1}{3} \ln \left( \frac{1 + 2\lambda}{1 - \lambda} \right)$

- Roberge-Weiss symmetric

from global  $\mathbb{Z}_3$  symmetry

$$Z_{\text{eff}}(T, \mu = i\theta T) \equiv Z_{\text{eff}}^I(\theta) = Z_{\text{eff}}^I(\theta + 2\pi/3)$$

• flux-tube model representation (dual)

$$Z_{\text{eff}}(T, \mu) = \sum_{\{n, l\}_{\text{phys}}} \exp \left\{ -\beta \left( H(n, l) - \mu \sum_i q_i \right) \right\}$$

analogous to:

Patel, NPB 243 (1984) 411

Bernard, DeGrand, DeTar, Gottlieb, Krasnitz, Sugar, Toussain, PRD 49 (1994) 6051

Condella & DeTar, PRD 61(2000) 074023

here with:

$$H(n, l) = \sum_{\langle i, j \rangle} \overset{\text{string tension}}{\sigma} |l_{\langle i, j \rangle}| + \sum_{i, s} m(n_{i, s} + \bar{n}_{i, s})$$

fluxes represented by link variables:  $l_{\langle i, j \rangle} \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$

(anti-)quark occupation numbers:  $n_{i, s} \in \{0, \dots, 3\}$  and  $\bar{n}_{i, s} \in \{0, \dots, 3\}$  spin  $s = \{\uparrow, \downarrow\}$

• **Z<sub>3</sub>-Gauss' law:**

(Poisson equation)

$$\sum_{j \sim i} l_{\langle i, j \rangle} - \sum_s (n_{i, s} - \bar{n}_{i, s}) = 0 \pmod 3$$

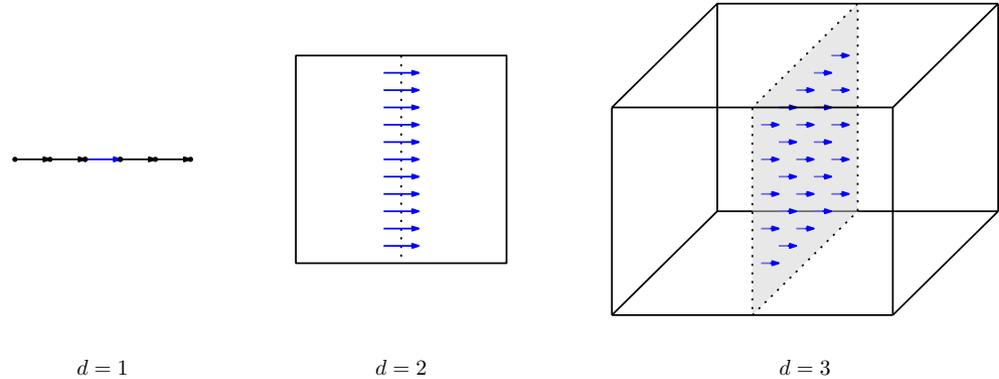
flux from volume  
around site  $i$

$$\underbrace{\sum_{j \sim i} l_{\langle i, j \rangle}}_{\phi_i} = \underbrace{\sum_s (n_{i, s} - \bar{n}_{i, s})}_{q_i \pmod 3}$$

net-quark number modulo 3

- **interfaces in flux-tube model**

dual stacks of links  $S^*$



$$H(n, l) = \sum_{\langle i, j \rangle} \sigma |l_{\langle i, j \rangle}| + \sum_{i, s} m(n_{i, s} + \bar{n}_{i, s})$$

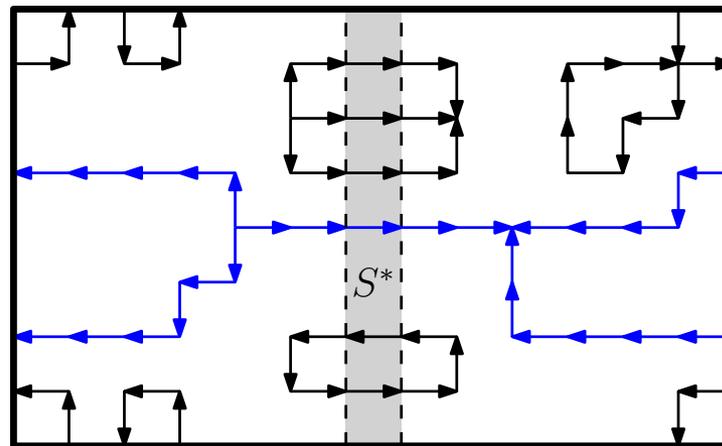
- **flux through interface**

$$\phi_S = \sum_{\langle i, j \rangle \in S^*} l_{\langle i, j \rangle}$$

- **add constraint to fix**

$$\phi_S = e \pmod 3$$

example flux config without (anti-)quarks



$$\phi_S \pmod 3 = 1$$

- flux-tube model with interface

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z(q_V =_3 e) &= \sum_{\{l,n\}} \exp \left\{ -\beta \left( H(\{l,n\}) - \mu \sum_i q_i \right) \right\} \underbrace{\left( \frac{1}{3} \sum_{z \in Z_3} z^{\phi_S - e} \right)}_{\text{flux constraint}} \prod_j \underbrace{\left( \frac{1}{3} \sum_{z \in Z_3} z^{\phi_j - q_j} \right)}_{\text{Gauss' law}} \\
 &= \frac{1}{3} \sum_{z \in Z_3} z^{-e} \sum_{\{l,n\}} \exp \left\{ -\beta \left( H(\{l,n\}) - \mu \sum_i q_i \right) \right\} z^{\phi_S} \prod_j \left( \frac{1}{3} \sum_{z \in Z_3} z^{\phi_j - q_j} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

- back to dual Potts model

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{\{l\}} \left( \prod_{\langle i,j \rangle} e^{-\beta \sigma |l_{\langle i,j \rangle}|} \right) z^{\phi_S} \left( \prod_k z_k^{\phi_k} \right) \\
 = \prod_{\langle i,j \rangle} \left( 1 + 2\lambda \operatorname{Re} \left( z^{-s_{\langle i,j \rangle}} z_i z_j^* \right) \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

with interface:

$$s_{\langle i,j \rangle} = \begin{cases} 1, & \langle i,j \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^* \\ -1, & \langle j,i \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^* \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Z<sub>3</sub>-Fourier transform**

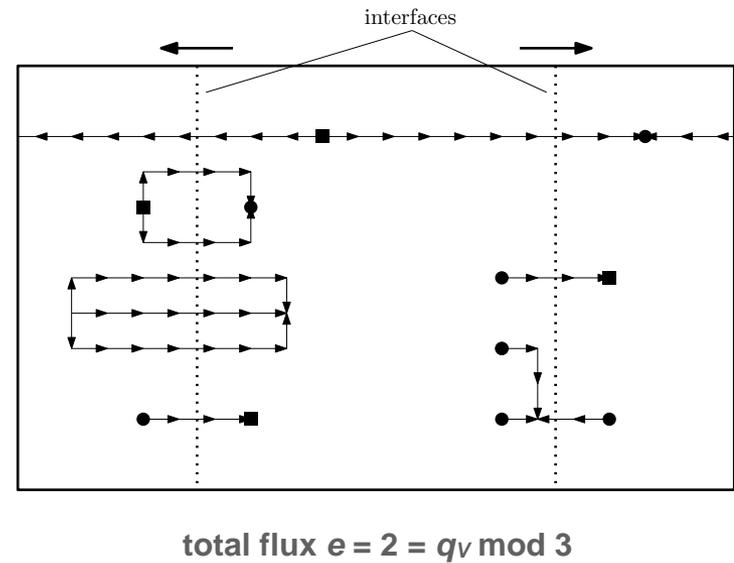
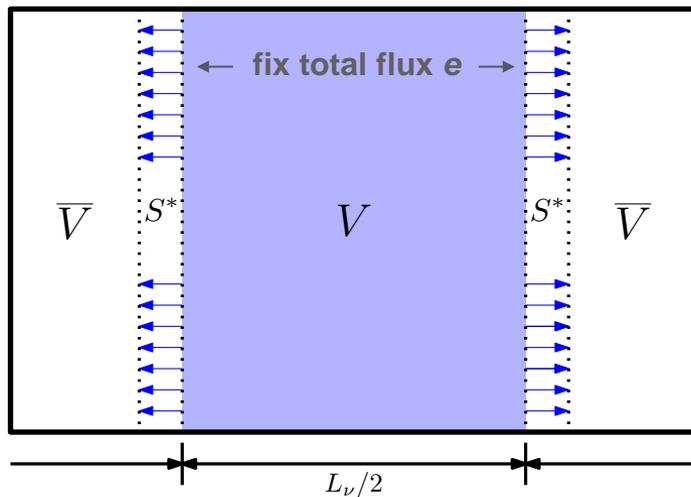
$$Z(q_V =_3 e) = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{z \in \mathbb{Z}_3} z^{-e} Z_S(z)$$

Z<sub>3</sub>-flux ensembles

Z<sub>3</sub>-interface ensembles

- interface ensembles**

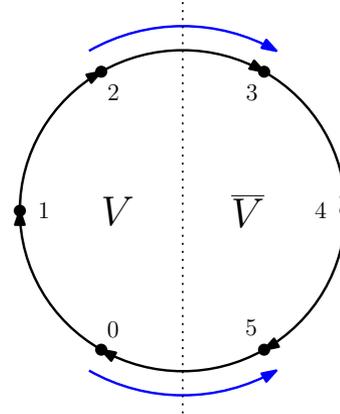
$$Z_S(z) = \sum_{\{z_i \in \mathbb{Z}_3\}} \exp \left\{ \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} 2\gamma \operatorname{Re} \left( z^{-s_{\langle i,j \rangle}} z_i z_j^* \right) \right\} \prod_i Q(z_i)$$



- Potts model representation

total charge in sub-volume

$$V : q_V \bmod 3 = 1$$



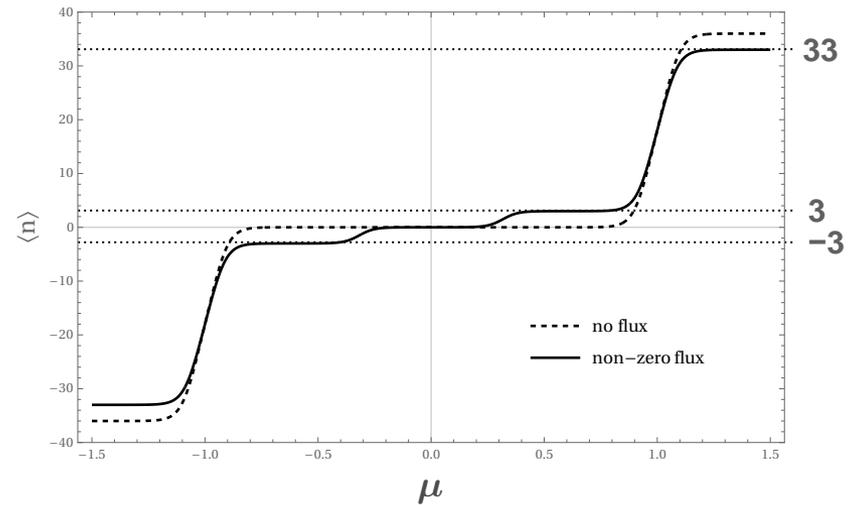
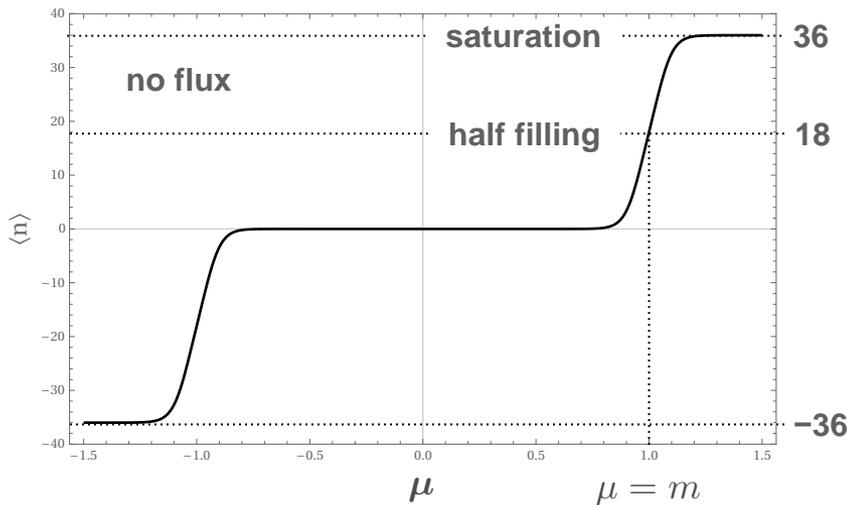
total charge in complement

$$\bar{V} : q_{\bar{V}} \bmod 3 = 2$$

total flux:  $\phi_S \bmod 3 = 1$

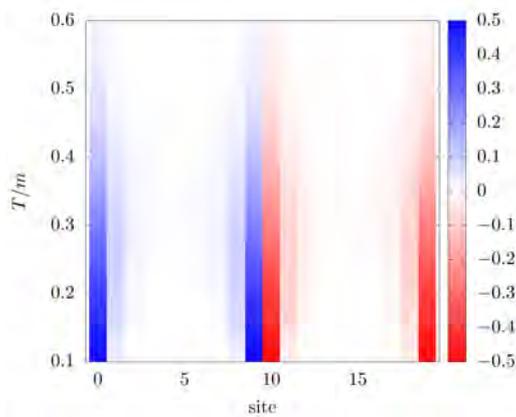
- compare:

$$L = 6, \quad \sigma a/m = 0.3, \quad T/m = 0.1$$

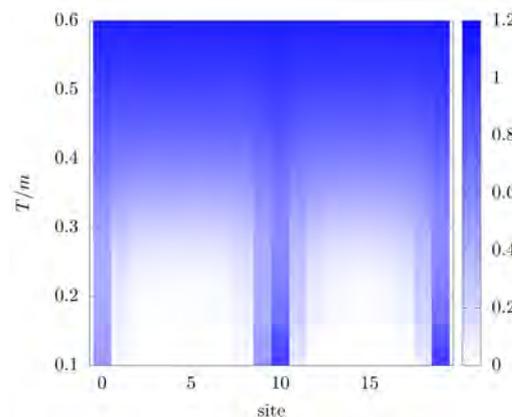


- net quark number density

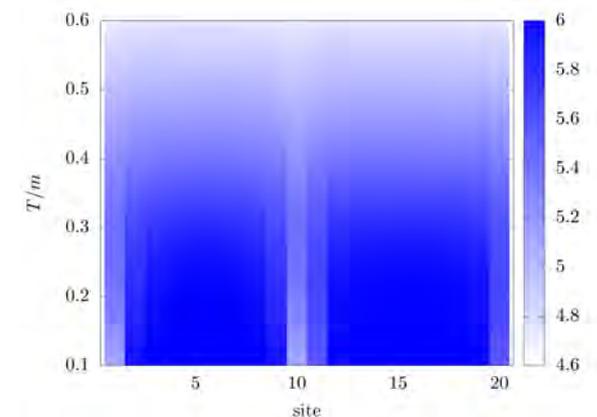
$$L = 20, \quad \sigma a/m = 0.3$$



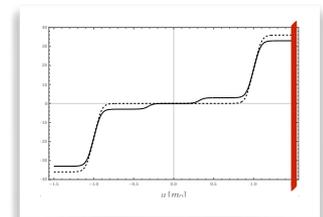
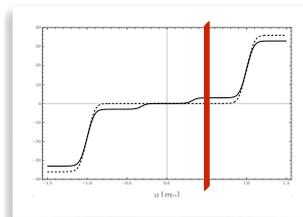
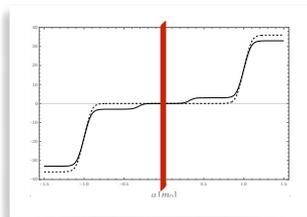
(a)  $\mu/m = 0$  (mesonic)



(b)  $\mu/m = 0.5$  (baryonic)



(c)  $\mu/m = 1.5$  (saturation)



- define

$$\Delta F_\infty = \lim_{L_1 \rightarrow \infty} \left[ -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln \left( \frac{Z(q_V =_3 1)}{Z(q_V =_3 0)} \right) \right]$$

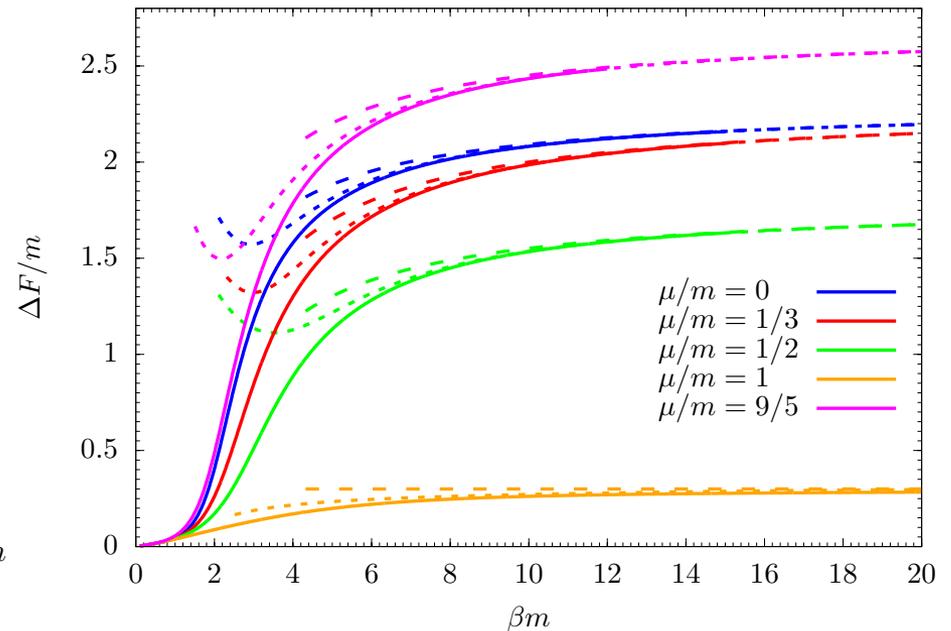
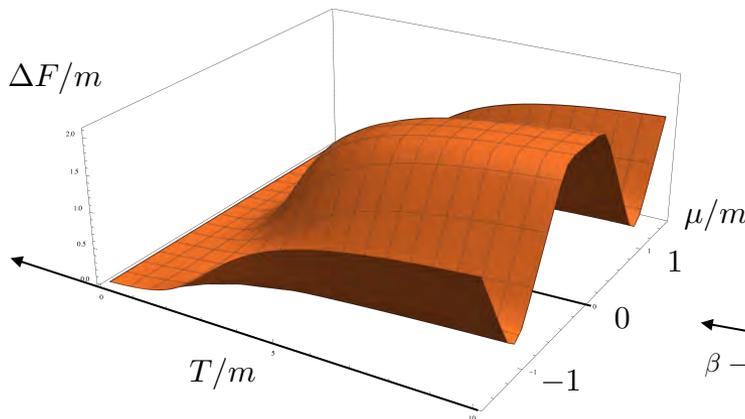
- still (1+1)-dim

Potts model representation,  
flux-tube model parameters  
( $V = L/2$ )

- independent of  $L$

no asymptotic string tension

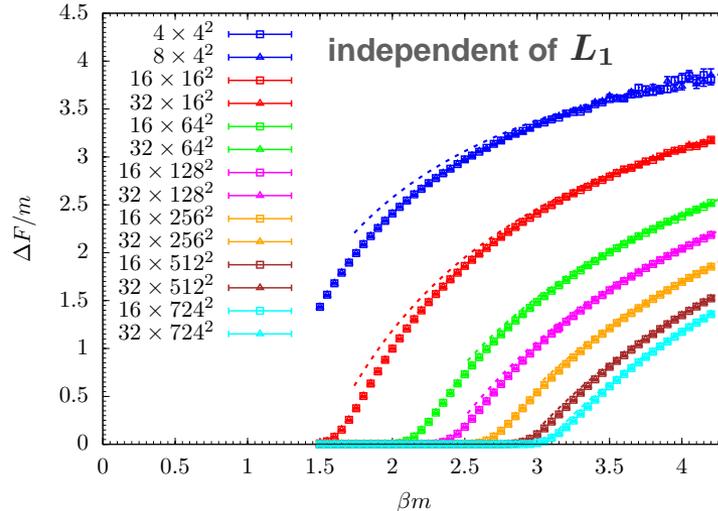
$L = 64, \sigma a/m = 0.3$



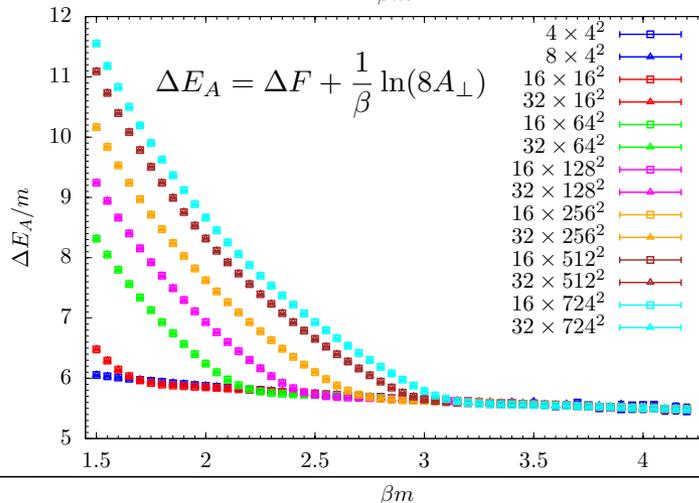
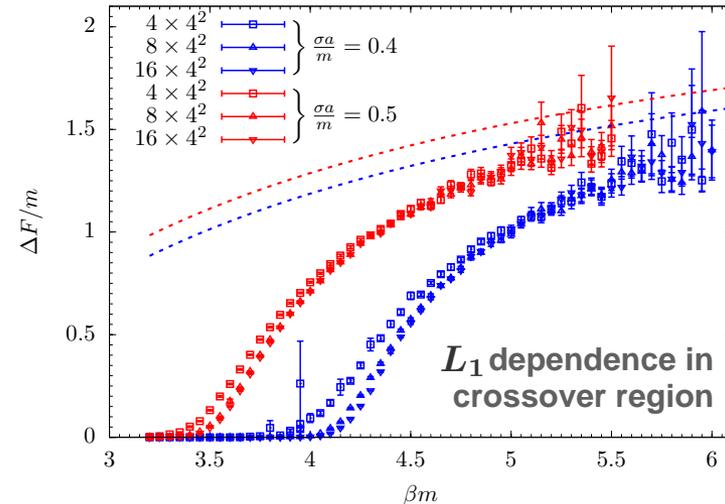
$$\Delta_1^{(0)} - \Delta_0^{(0)} = \begin{cases} 2m + \sigma a, & \mu \leq m/3 \\ 3|m - \mu| + \sigma a, & \mu > m/3 \end{cases}$$

$\beta \rightarrow \infty$

$\mu = 0, \sigma a/m = 3$



$\sigma a/m = 0.4, 0.5$



• leading entropy contribution

meson with spin  $s = 0, 1$  at either of two interfaces with area  $A_{\perp} = L_2 L_3$

$$\Delta F \simeq \underbrace{(\Delta_1^{(0)} - \Delta_0^{(0)})}_{2m + \sigma a} - \frac{1}{\beta} \ln(8A_{\perp})$$

- **q-state Potts, Boltzmann factor:**

$$\omega(\{s, b\}) = \prod_{\langle i, j \rangle} (e^{-K} \delta_{b_{\langle i, j \rangle}, 0} + (1 - e^{-K}) \delta_{b_{\langle i, j \rangle}, 1} \delta_{s_i, s_j}) \prod_i e^{h \delta_{s_i, 0}}$$

↑ ↑  
site-bond representation

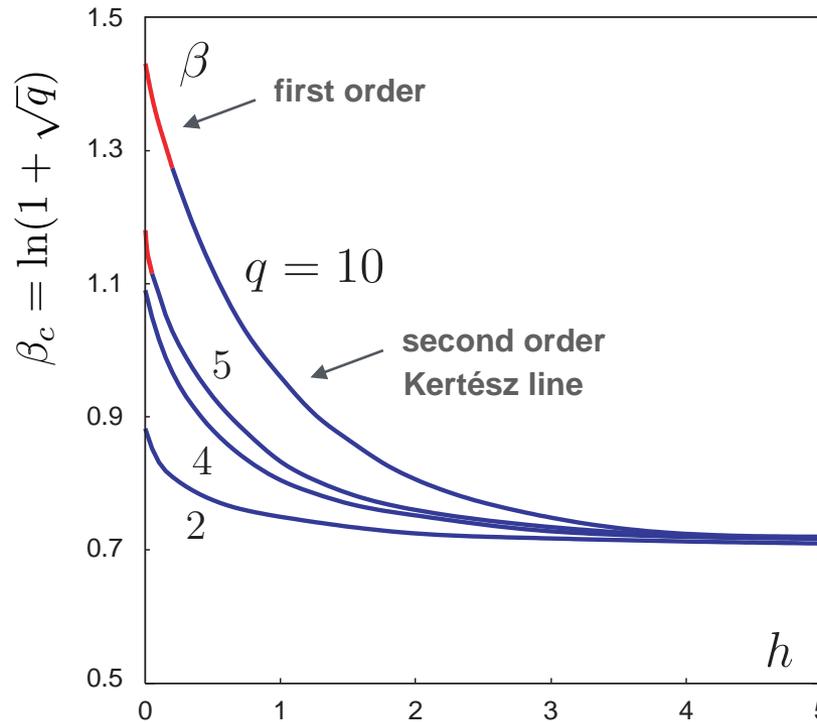
Edwards & Sokal, PRD 38 (1988) 2009

- **place bond:**  $b_{\langle i, j \rangle} \in \{0, 1\}$  with probability  $1 - e^{-K}$   
between like nearest-neighbor spins  $s_i \in \{0, 1, \dots, q - 1\}$
- **infinite external field:**  $h \rightarrow \infty \rightsquigarrow$  bond percolation  
with bond probability  $p = 1 - e^{-K}$ ,  $K = J/T$  controlled by temperature
- **vanishing external field:**  $h \rightarrow 0$ ,

if  $p = p_c$  at  $T = T_b > T_c \rightsquigarrow$  bond percolation in ordered phase below  $T_c$   
lose at Curie temperature  $T_c$

- $q$ -state Potts, 2 dimensions:

Blanchard, Gandolfo, Laanait, Ruiz,  
Satz, J. Phys. A 41 (2008) 085001



$$\beta_b = 1/T_b = \ln 2$$

$$(p_c = 1/2)$$

- spanning probability:

$$R(T, \mu, L) = \frac{1}{Z_{\text{flux}}} \sum_{\{n,l\} \in \mathcal{R}} \exp \{ -\beta(H(n,l) - \mu q) \}$$

set of percolating configs  $\mathcal{R}$ : contain at least one cluster of bond configurations spanning the entire volume in at least one direction

- simulate with worm algorithm

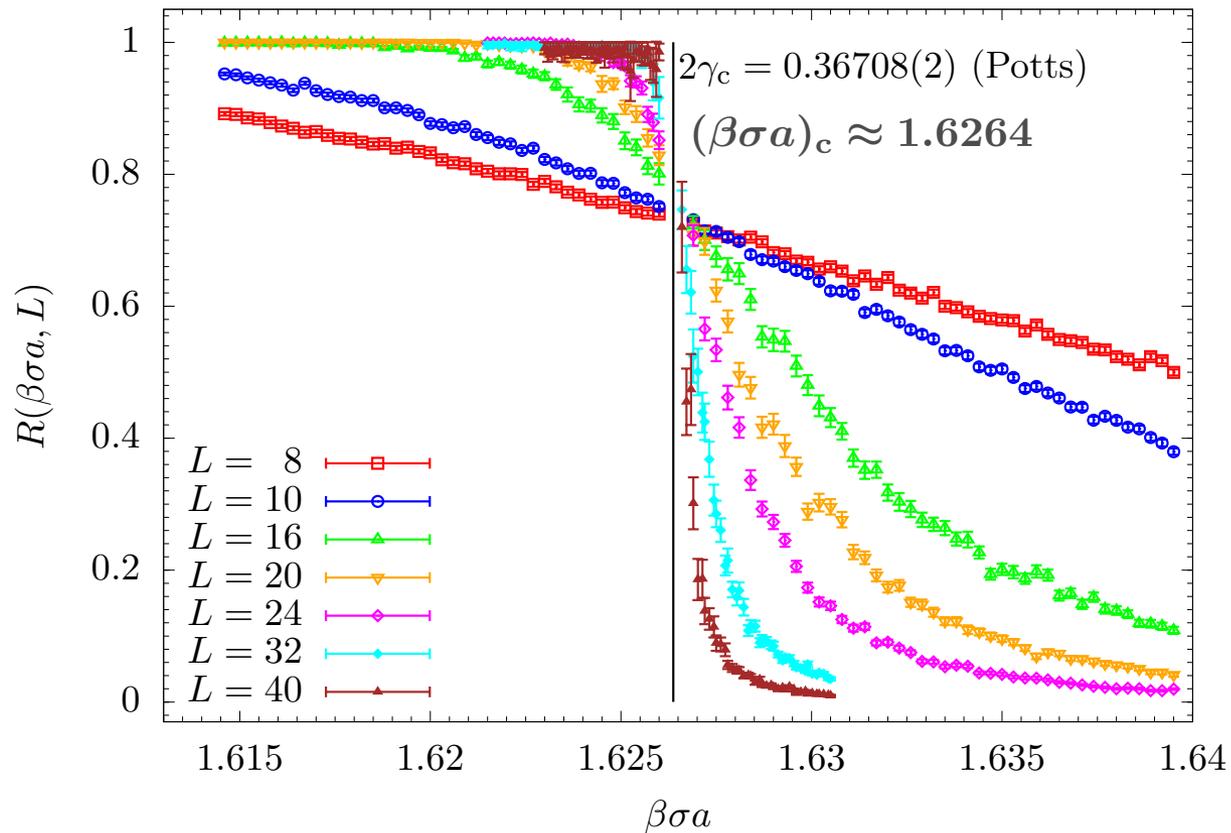
Prokof'ev & Svistunov, PRL 87 (2001) 160601  
 Korzec & Vierhaus, 2011, CPC 182 (2011) 1477  
 Delgado, Evertz, Gatteringer, CPC 183 (2012) 1920  
 Rindlisbacher, Akerlund, de Forcrand, NPB (2016) 542

- measure with fully-dynamic connectivity algorithm

Holm, Lichtenberg, Thorup, J. ACM 48 (2001) 723  
 Alexandru, Bergner, Schaich, Wenger, PRD 97 (2018) 114503

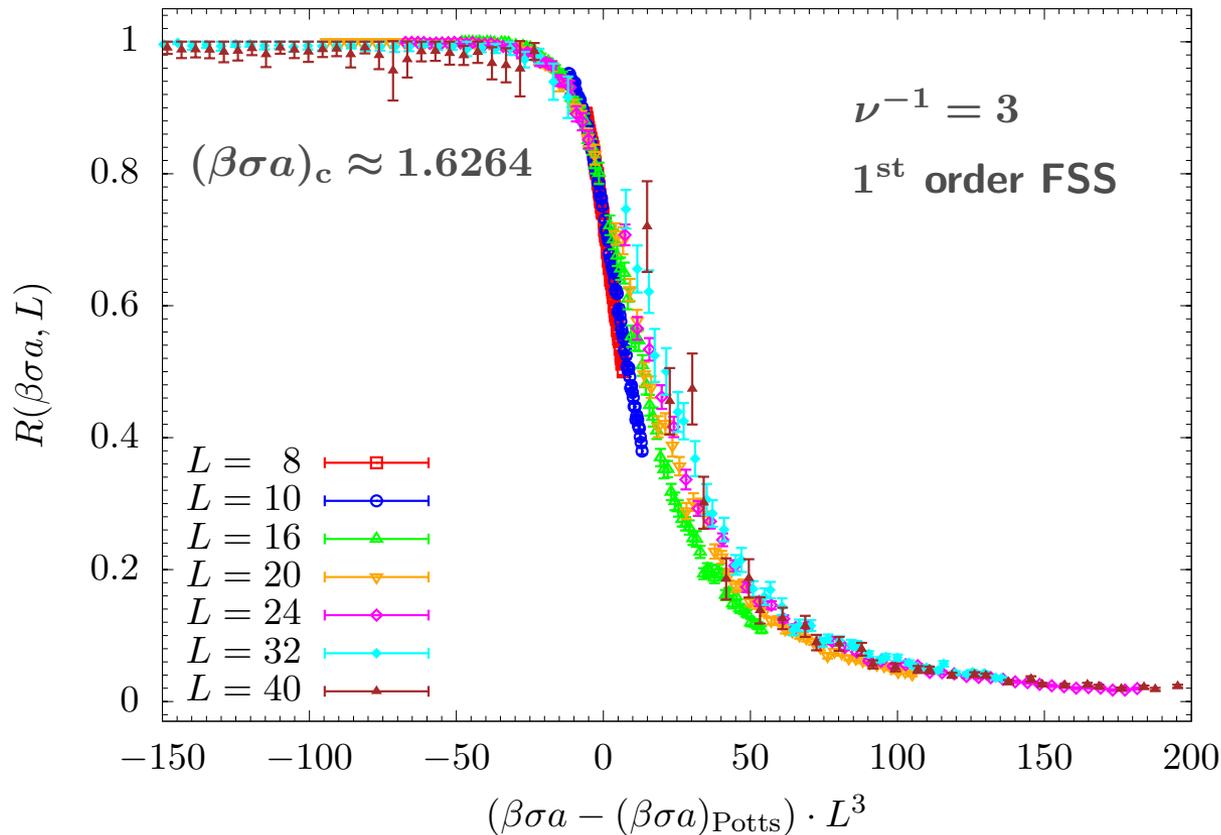
- infinitely heavy quarks  
Z<sub>3</sub>-Potts (1<sup>st</sup> order transition)

$$m \rightarrow \infty, \mu = 0$$



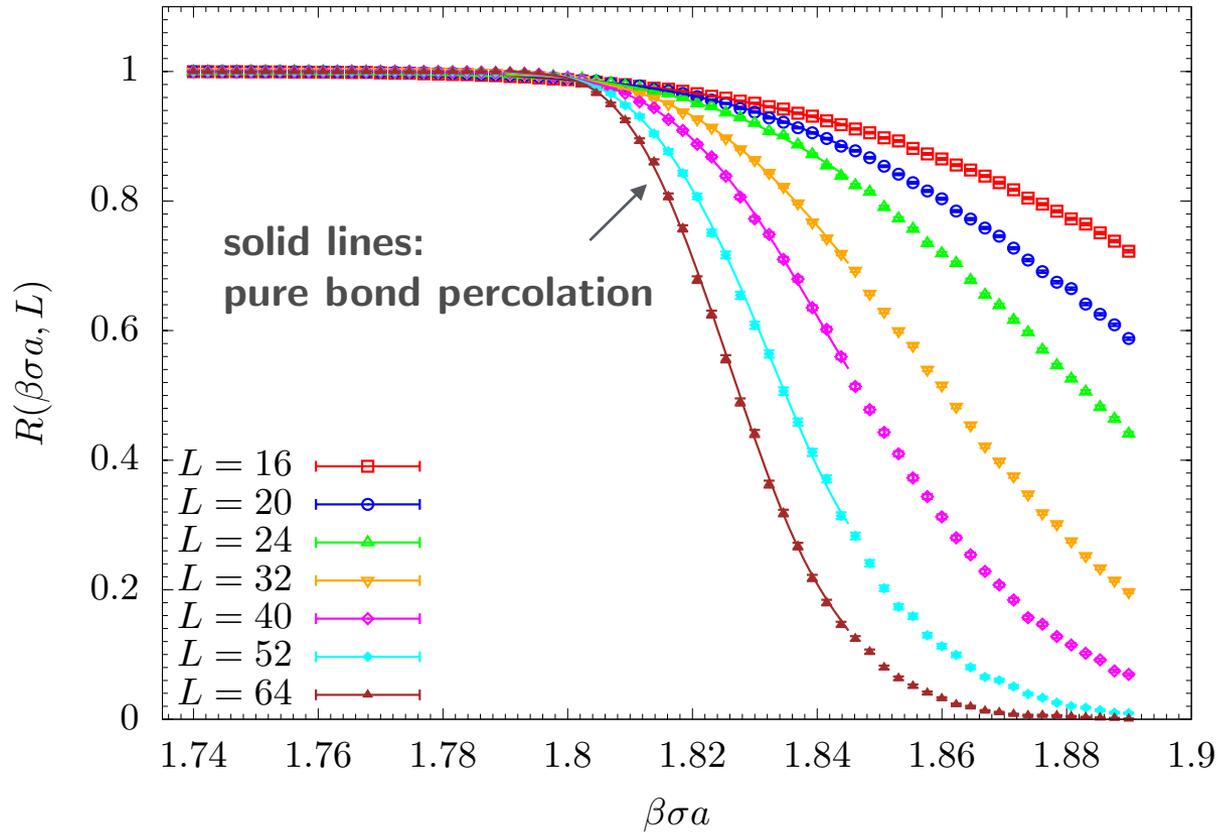
- infinitely heavy quarks  
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- massless limit  
bond percolation (2<sup>nd</sup> order)

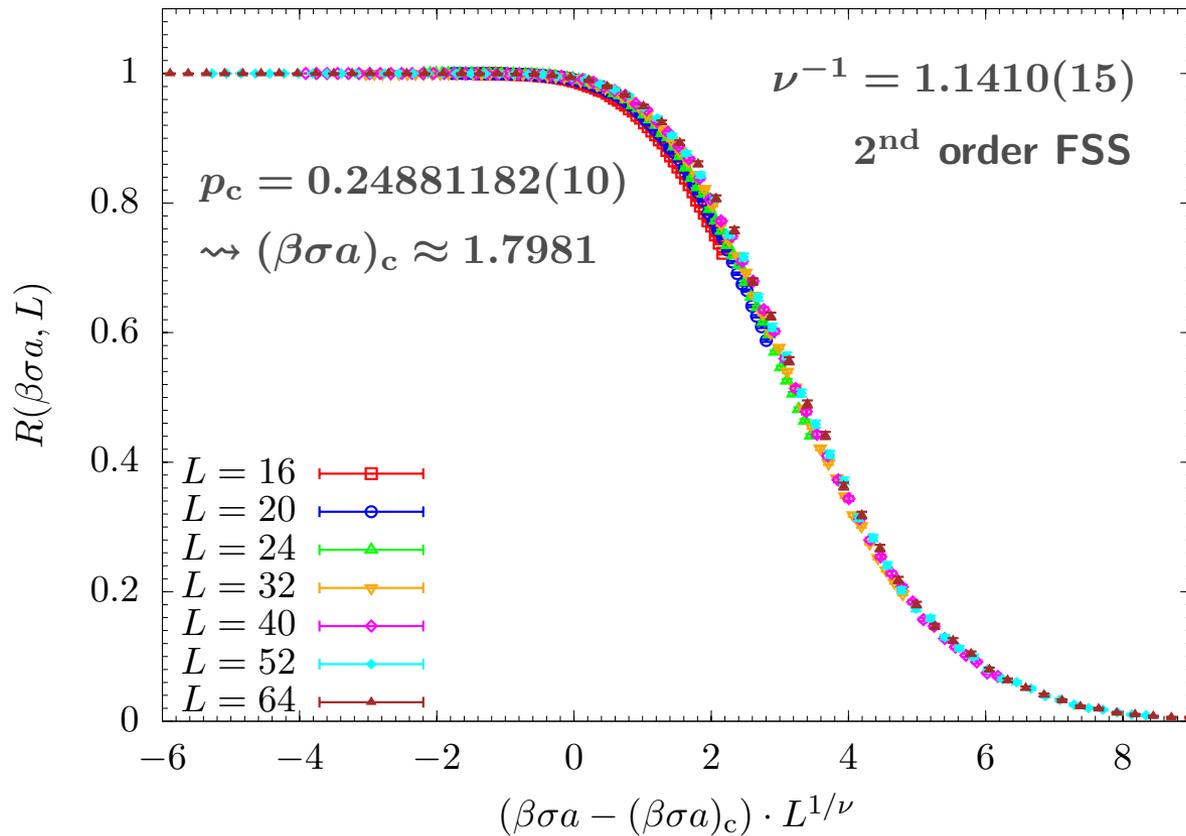
$$m = 0, \mu = 0$$



- massless limit  
bond percolation (2<sup>nd</sup> order)

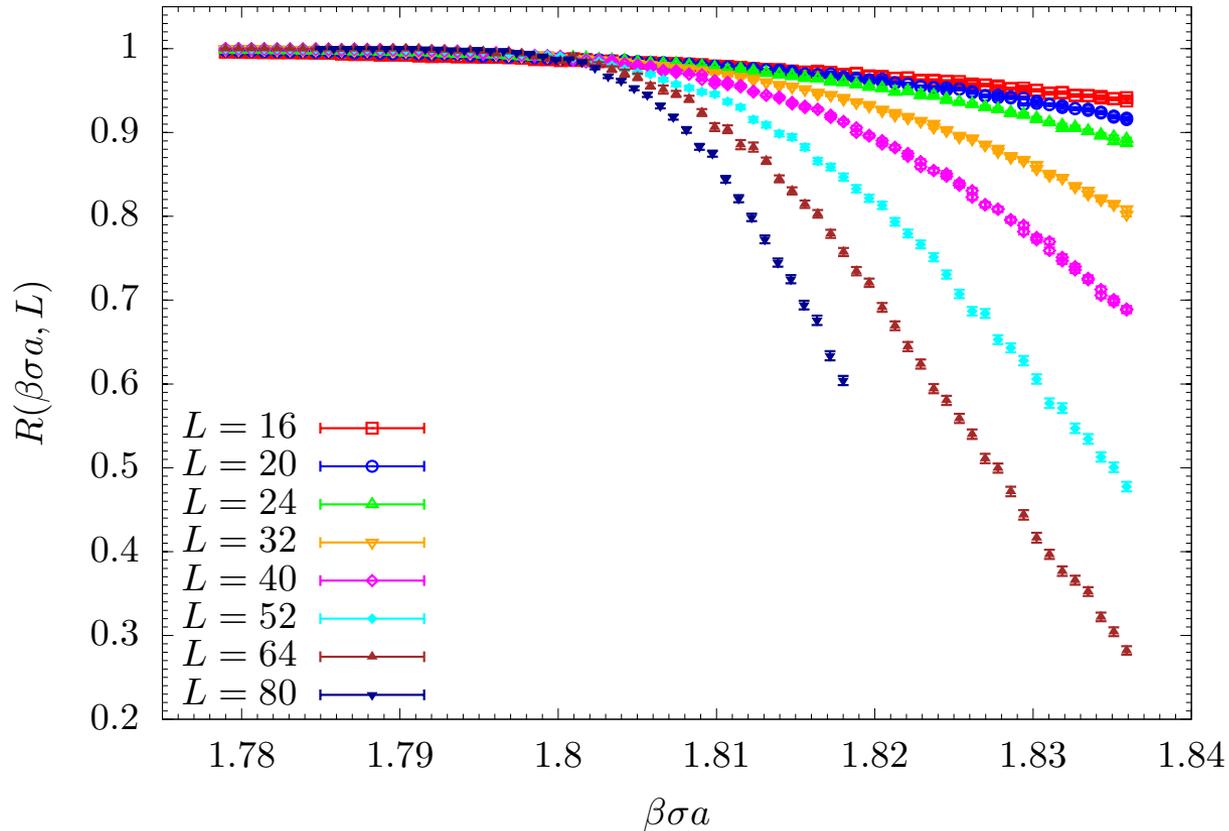
Wang, Zhou, Zhang et al., PRE 87 (2013) 052107

$$m = 0, \mu = 0$$



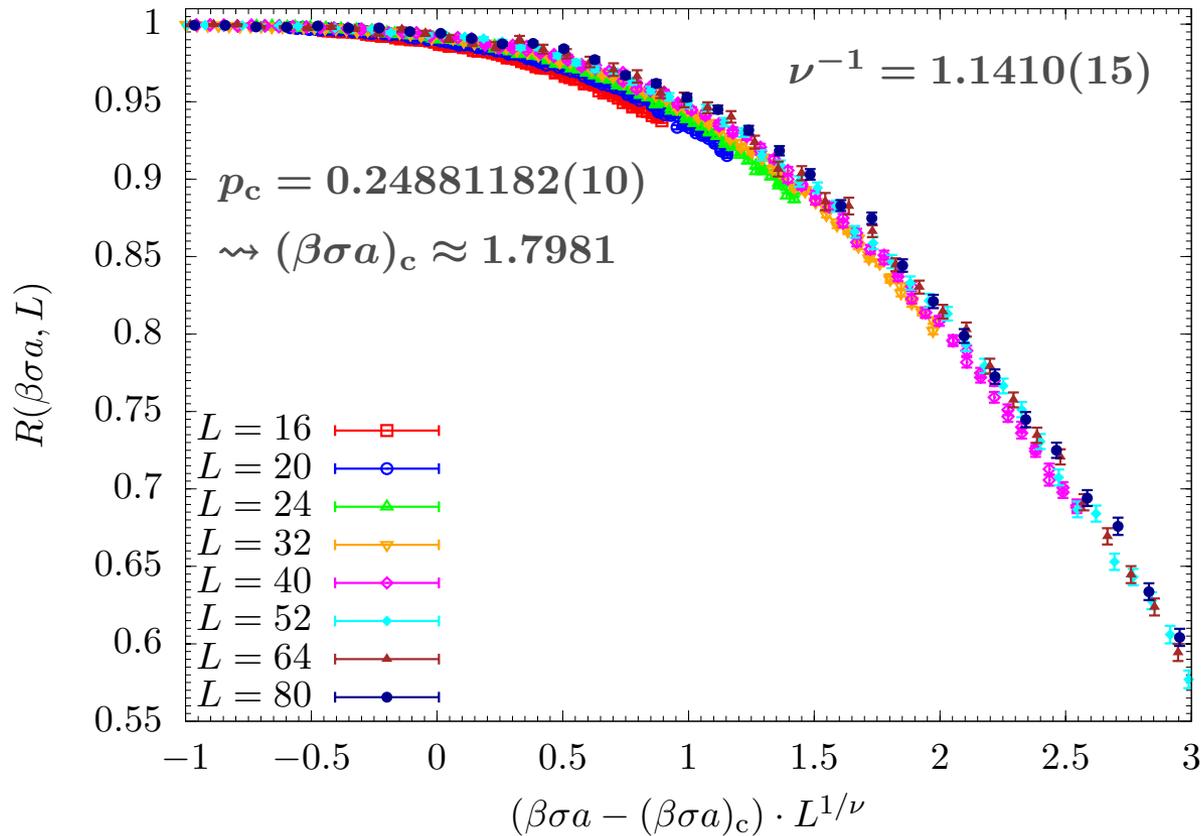
- fairly light quarks  
smooth  $Z_3$ -Potts crossover

$$m = \sigma a / 6$$



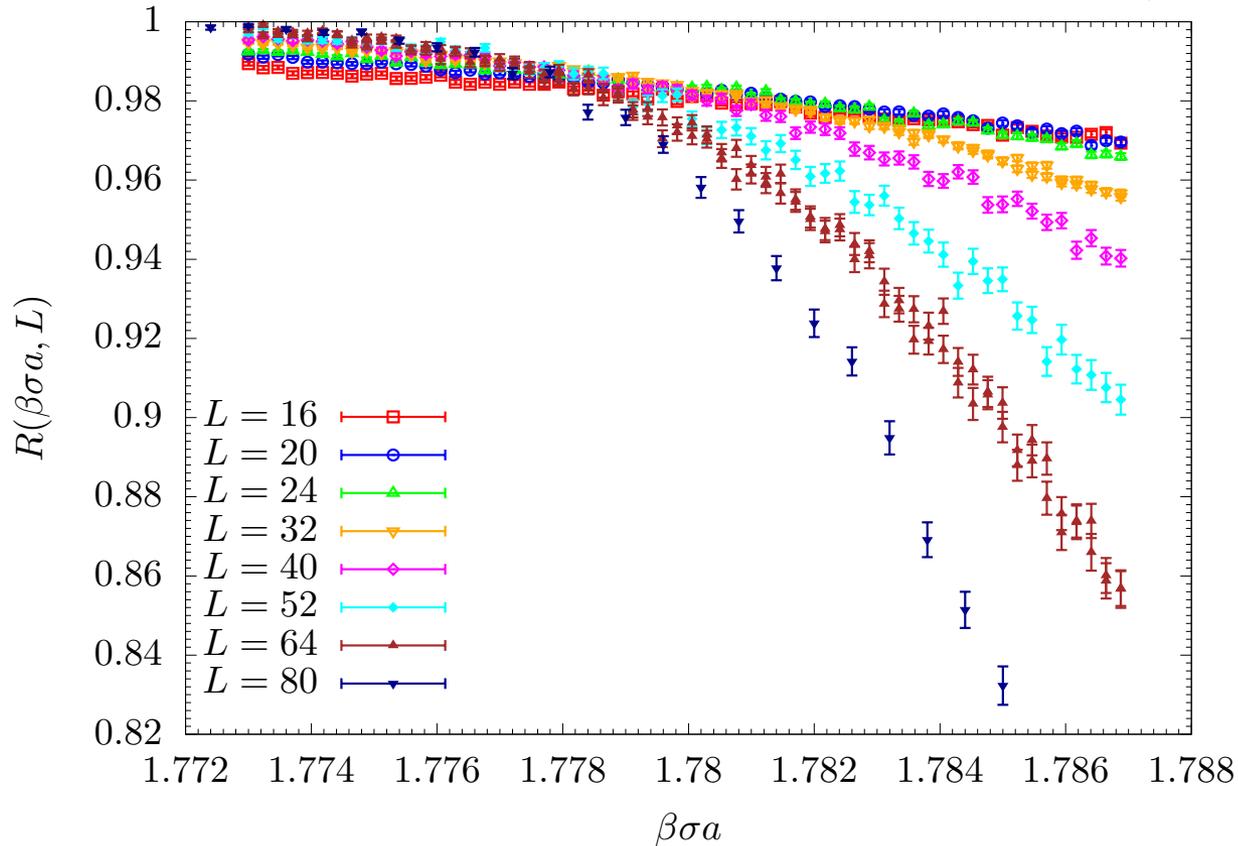
- fairly light quarks  
smooth  $Z_3$ -Potts crossover

$$m = \sigma a / 6$$

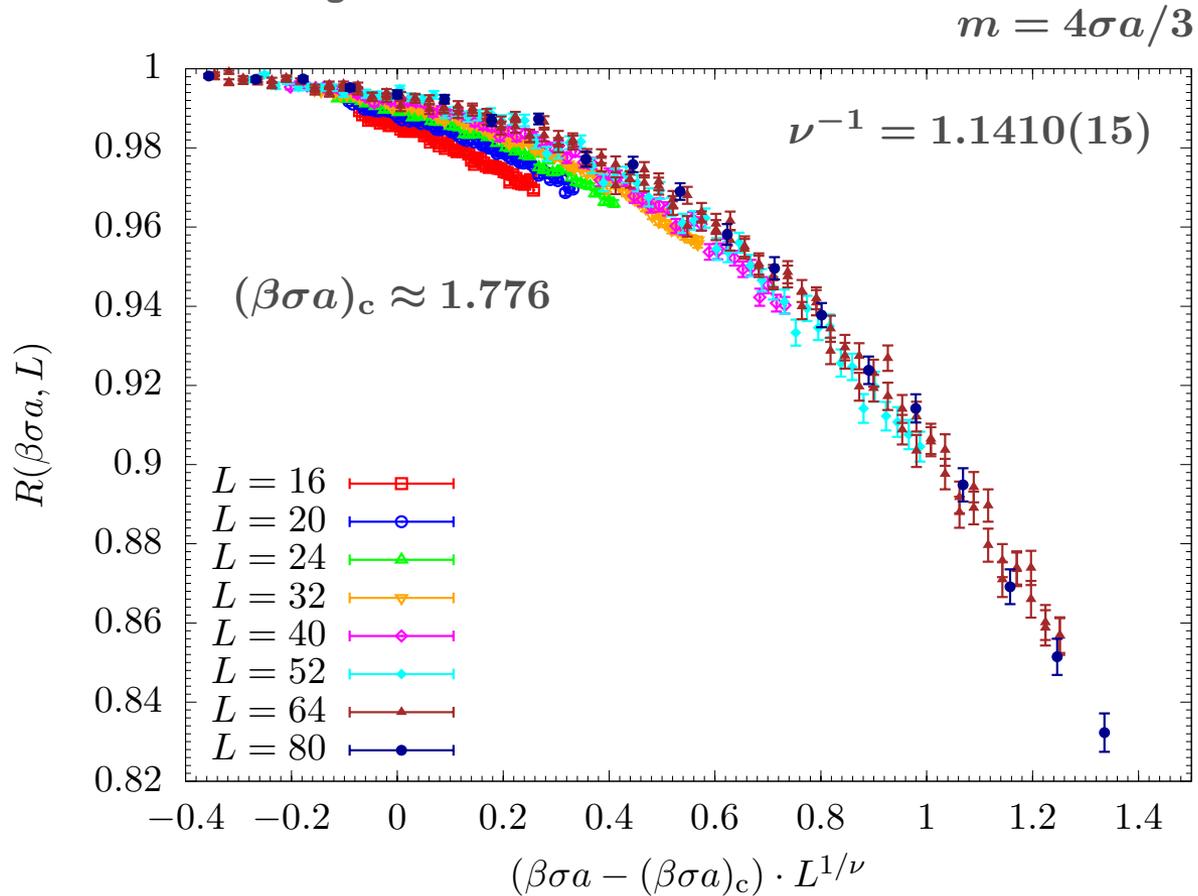


- medium heavy quarks  
still in  $Z_3$ -Potts crossover region

$$m = 4\sigma a/3$$

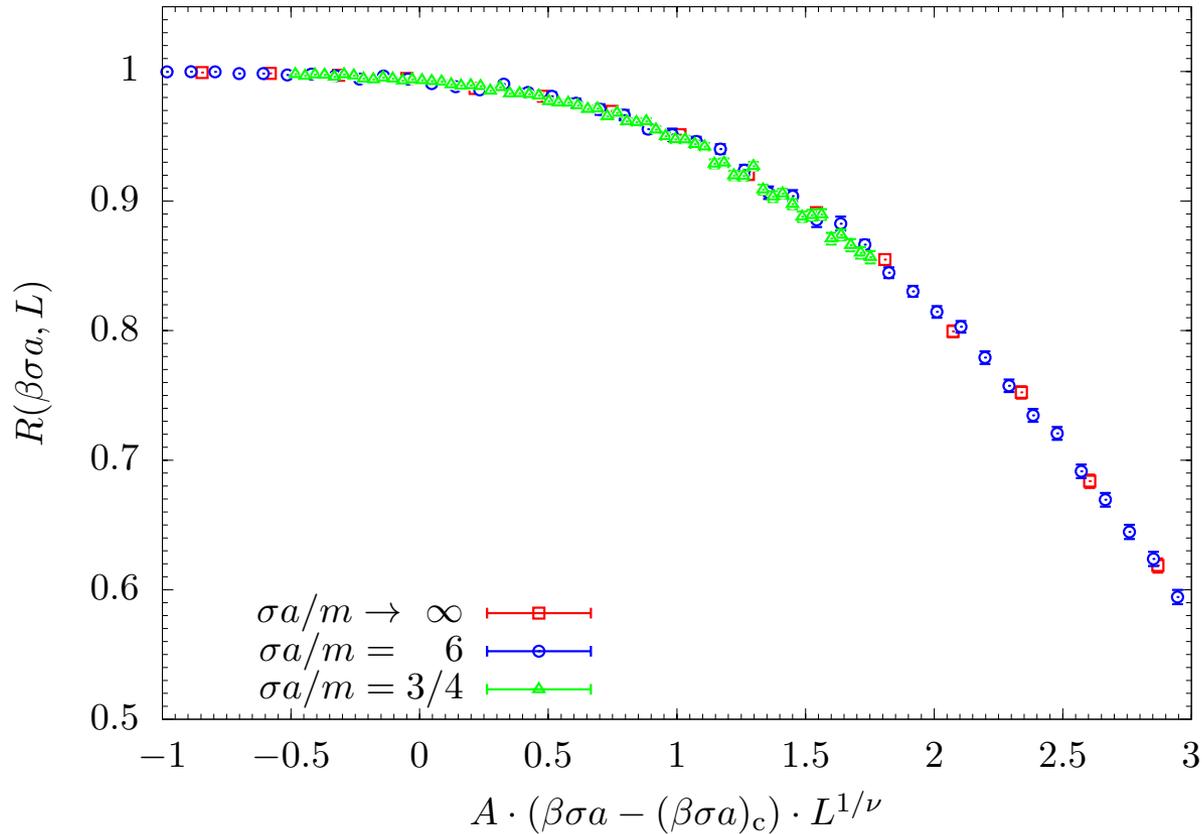


- medium heavy quarks  
still in  $Z_3$ -Potts crossover region



- universal scaling function

combine  $m = \{0, \sigma a/6, 4\sigma a/3\}$



- **Quarks and triality in a finite volume**

from FTs over stacks of closed center vortex sheets

- **Proof in two ways:**

[see Ghanbarpour, LvS, arXiv:2206.11697 [hep-lat]]

1. **dualization of quark action**

Gattringer & Marchis, NPB 916 (2017) 627

Marchis & Gattringer, PRD 97 (2018) 034508

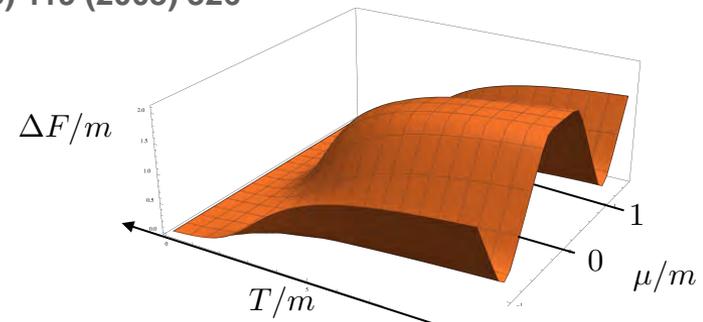
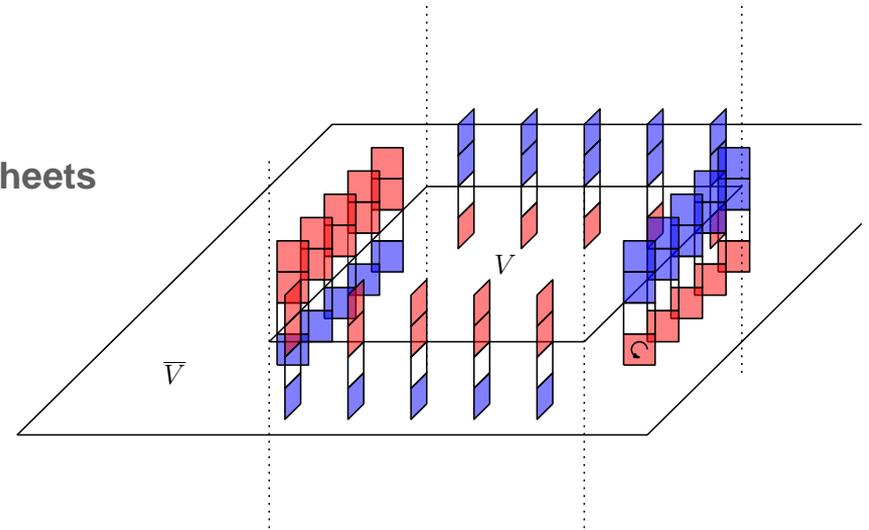
2. **transfer matrix approach**

Lüscher, Com. Math. Phys. 54 (1977) 283, Borgs & Seiler, Com. Math. Phys. 91 (1983) 329

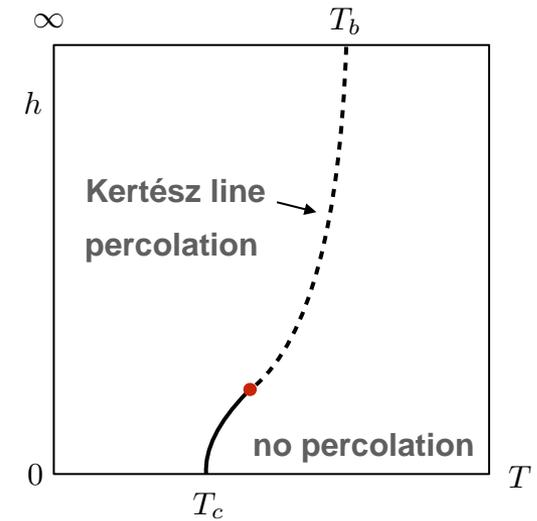
Palumbo, NPB 645 (2002) 309, Mitrjushkin, NPB (PS) 119 (2003) 326

- **Illustration: heavy-dense QCD**

effective theory dual to flux-tube model



- **Percolation of electric fluxes in effective theory**  
geometric deconfinement phase transition  
at strong coupling with static fermion determinant



Potts model

- **Percolation of electric fluxes in QCD**

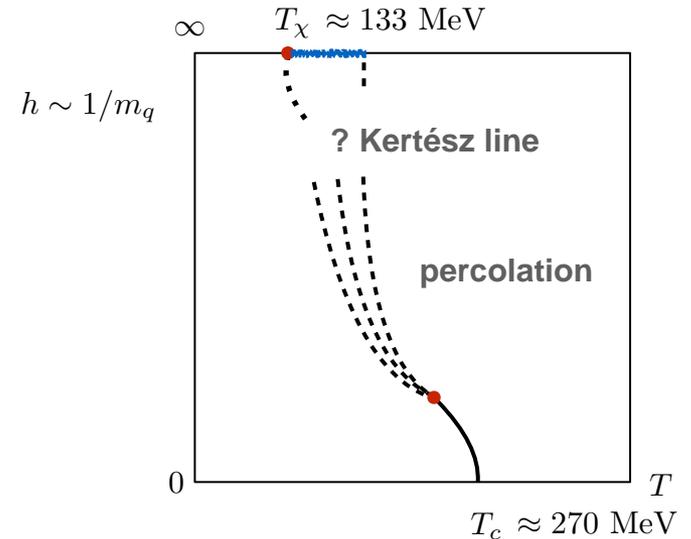
expect: geometric deconfinement phase transition

have: gauge invariant definition of fluxes  
and spanning probability

- **Entanglement entropy in QCD**

so far only in pure gauge theory

Buividovich, Polikarpov, NPB 802 (2008) 458



**Thank you for your attention!**